
**State Government Operations &
Accountability Committee**

HB 1261

Brief Description: Making the joint committee on veterans' and military affairs permanent.

Sponsors: Representatives Morrell, Haigh, Wallace, Campbell, O'Brien, McCoy, Moeller, Kenney, Hasegawa, Green, Lantz, Flannigan, Williams, Dunshee, B. Sullivan, Kilmer, Strow, Uptegrove, Darneille, Springer, Hunt, Sells, P. Sullivan, Tom, Talcott, McCune, Serben, McDonald, Conway, Linville, Kristiansen, Chase, Ormsby, Santos and Kagi.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Specifies the composition and term limitations of the Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs (JCVMA) committee's executive committee.
- Removes the expiration date of the JCVMA, making the JCVMA permanent.

Hearing Date: 2/2/05

Staff: Hannah Lidman (786-7291).

Background:

Joint Select Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs

In 2000 the Joint Select Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs (JSCVMA) was created. The purpose of the committee was to examine and define issues and make recommendations on programs, laws, and administrative practices affecting veterans and military affairs. The JSCVMA ceased to exist after 1999-2000 biennium.

Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs

In 2001 the Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs (JCVMA) was created. The purpose of the JCVMA is to study issues relating veterans, active military forces, the National Guard, the Reserves, the Military Department, and the Departments of Veterans Affairs. The JCVMA makes recommendations to the Legislature regarding these issues and may create subcommittees to perform its duties. The JCVMA is required to adopt operating rules and procedures.

The JCVMA consists of 16 members, four members from each caucus of the House appointed by the Speaker of the House, and four members from each caucus of the Senate appointed by the

President of the Senate. The four-member executive committee, representing the majority and minority of each chamber, performs administrative duties assigned to it by the JCVMA.

The JCVMA expires on December 31, 2005.

Summary of Bill:

The four-member executive committee of the JCVMA must have two members from the Senate and two from House. The executive committee shall appoint one co-chair from among the two Senators and one from among the two Representatives. The co-chairs must be of different political parties. The co-chair terms shall run from the end of the session in which they are appointed until the close of the next regular session in an odd-numbered year.

The expiration date is removed, making the JCVMA permanent.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.